

Capsule Summary  
SM-400  
Mechanicsville Elementary School  
Mechanicsville  
Private

circa 1895

The Mechanicsville Elementary School was the second public elementary school to serve the village of Mechanicsville. Built around 1895, this simple ell-shaped structure continued to be used as a school until 1951. Now divided into two apartments, the interior of the school has been reworked. The exterior retains its original form and fenestration pattern as well as its weatherboard siding.

Although the school is not very visible from the road, it represents an important part of Mechanicsville's history. Some village residents remember attending school there. Others simply recognize the distinctive schoolhouse form as a remnant of Mechanicsville's former heyday as a self-sufficient community

SM-400, Mechanicsville Elementary School  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture  
Education

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: School

Known Design Source: Unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

LAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-400

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mechanicsville Elementary School

## 2. Location

street & number Off Old Route 5 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5

state MD \_\_\_\_\_ county St. Mary's County

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frank Abell

street & number P.O. Box 863 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: 301-274-3815

city, town Mechanicsville \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code MD 20659

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court \_\_\_\_\_ liber DBK 179

street & number St Mary's County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ folio 301

city, town Leonardtown \_\_\_\_\_ state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-400

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Mechanicsville Elementary School is located at the end of an unpaved road off of Old Route 5 in the village of Mechanicsville. The principal gable of this ell-shaped structure is oriented on a north/south axis. The school faces north.

Built around 1895, the Mechanicsville Elementary School is sheathed with weatherboard siding. This building is supported by a brick pier foundation and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) elevation consists of a western gable end with a slightly shorter projecting gable end vestibule. This vestibule is pierced by a replacement entrance door. The door is sheltered by a gable roof portico. The eastern section of the ell is lit by two two-over-two sash windows. One of the original windows on this elevation has been replaced by a modern entrance door.

The west elevation of the entrance vestibule is lit by one four-over-four sash window. The main block of the building is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this west elevation.

The south elevation of the ell's western gable end is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. A louvered vent pierces the eave. The ell's eastern wing consists of a shed roof projection pierced by two two-over-two sash windows and a modern door on the south side and an entrance door on the west side. A third window on the south side of the eastern projection is now blocked in. An interior brick chimney projects from the roof of this wing and an exterior cinderblock chimney stands beside it.

The east elevation of the entrance vestibule is lit by one two-over-two sash window. The east side of the main block is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. The east elevation of the ell's gable end was once lit by two windows which are now blocked in.

The interior, now divided into two apartments, was not seen. There are no outbuildings on the property.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-400

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      unknown      **Builder/Architect**      unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mechanicsville Elementary School was the second public elementary school to serve the village of Mechanicsville. The first school burned in the late nineteenth century. This school was built soon after the Board of County School Commissioners acquired 3/4 of an acre of land in 1895. In 1905 a right of way to the school, recorded in St. Mary's County Land Record Liber EGA 5, folio 98, was granted to the Board of County School Commissioners by the Reintzell family.

The Mechanicsville School continued to be used until 1951 when the construction of a new and considerably larger building was completed just northwest of the village. Now divided into two apartments, the interior of the school has been reworked. The exterior retains its original form and fenestration pattern as well as its weatherboard siding.

Although the school is not very visible from the road, it represents an important part of Mechanicsville's history. Some village residents remember attending school there. Others simply recognize the distinctive schoolhouse form as a remnant of Mechanicsville's former heyday as a self-sufficient community.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-400

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .75 acre

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification Source: St. Mary's County Land Records DBK 179/301

"All that lot lying contiguous to the southeast limit of the village of Mechanicsville."

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date December 1993

street & number

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHOD  
100 CONVENT PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2004  
207707

SM-400, Mechanicsville Elementary School  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

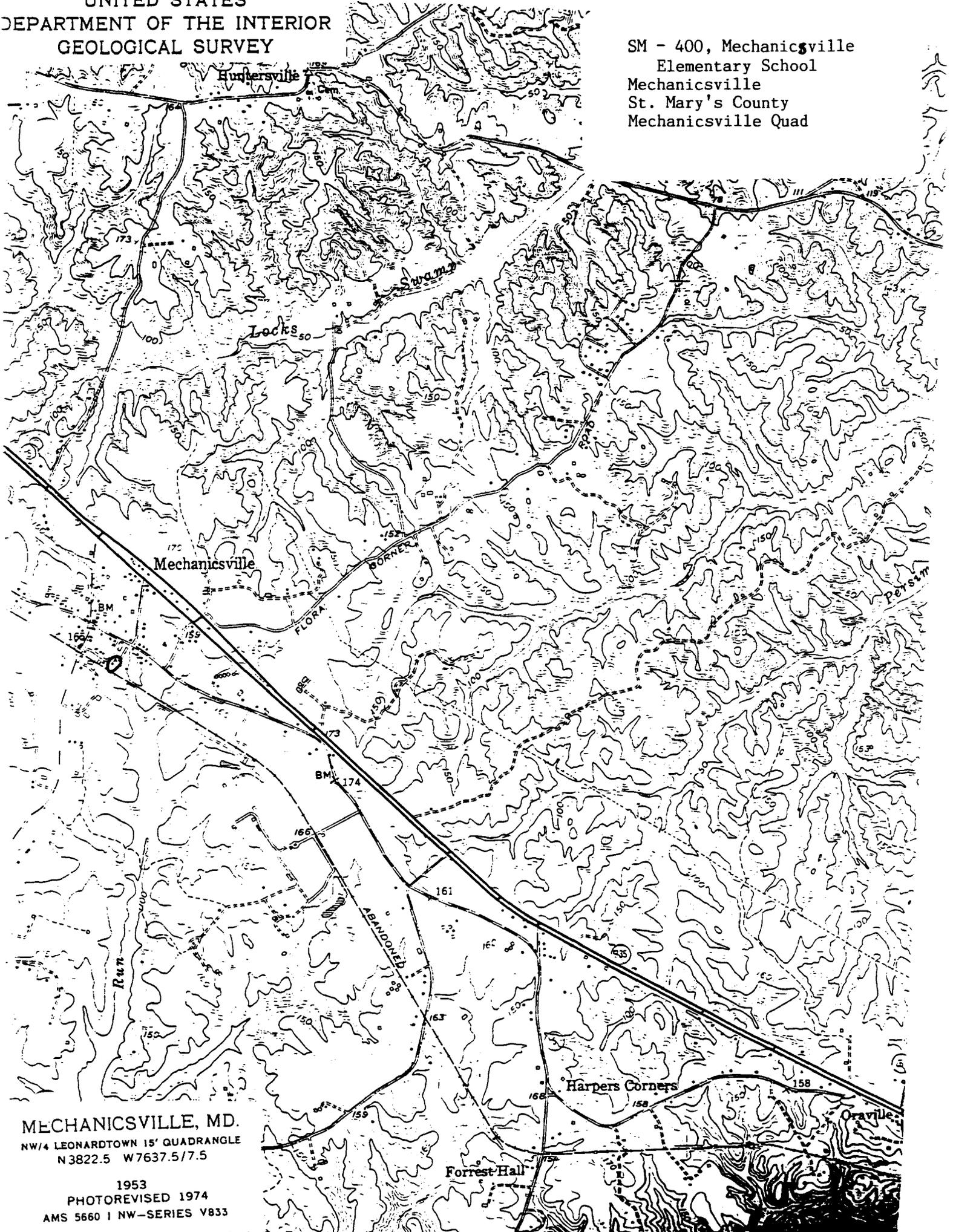
TO: J. Frank Abell  
FROM: Lucie Ann Abell  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, DBK 179, folio 301.  
DATE: June 28, 1972.  
NOTES: Transfer of parcel 6 being .75 of an acre.

TO: J. Frank and Lucie Ann Abell  
FROM: Board of Education (the body which succeeded the Board of County School Commissioners)  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, CBG 82, folio 5.  
DATE: June 3, 1959.  
NOTES: Quit claim deed.

TO: Board of County School Commissioners, being Joseph H. Key, Ignatius E. Mattingly, J. Frank Bohanan, and their successors.  
FROM: James Burch, Mary E. Burch, William E. Burch, June H. Burch, John E. Reintzell and Sarah O. Reintzell.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 3, folio 256.  
DATE: September 14, 1895.  
NOTES: Transfer of 3/4 of an acre.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM - 400, Mechanicsville  
Elementary School  
Mechanicsville  
St. Mary's County  
Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.  
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3822.5 W7637.5/7.5

1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1974  
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833



SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

DECEMBER 1975

110 SHED

NE ELEVATION

1/4



SM-400 MECHANICSMILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S WORKING CLASS

ELIZABETH THOMAS

DECEMBER 1913

414 2110

SE ELEVATION

74



SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.

ELIZABETH FUSHER

DECEMBER 1943

MD. SHP.

EDUCATION

7/4



SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HYGINS

DECEMBER 1943

143 WARD

1. LITWITOW - HISTORIC PHOTO. 1943

J. ROY GUYTHOR, MECHANICSVILLE, IL

1/4